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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our fathers' God, to You, the author of liberty, we lift this prayer. Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light. Protect us by Your might, great God, our King.

Lord, it is so easy for us to forget Your gracious providence that sustained our Nation's Founders through bitter adversity. How easily we forget and assume that our might, wisdom, and ingenuity alone produced this land we love. Remind our lawmakers each day that they are helpless without You. May they not wait for calamities to fall before they acknowledge their dependence upon You. Lord, deliver them from the pride which believes that they alone can solve the problems that beset our Nation. Quicken their minds to seek Your wisdom, and return them to that noble dependence on You that enabled our forebears to persevere and win against great odds.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the remarks of the leaders, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 30 minutes, and the Republicans will control the second 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. Last night, cloture was invoked on that matter, and we also agreed last night that we would have a vote in relation to the Burr substitute amendment at 4:30 p.m. I hope we will be able to reach an agreement to consider other amendments prior to the vote in relation to the Burr amendment.

Senators will be notified if any other votes are scheduled. Staff is working now trying to come up with a list of amendments we can vote on.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly caucus luncheons.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 31

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that H.R. 31 is at the desk and it is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 31) to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, when it comes to health care, Americans are looking for answers. They don't understand why basic medical procedures are so expensive. They don't understand why millions of Americans have to go without basic care in a nation as prosperous as our own. Many are worried about losing the care they already have and like.

So the need for health care reform is not in question. All of us want reform. The question is: What kind of reform will we deliver? And two very different approaches are now beginning to come into view.

According to one approach, the government plays the dominant role by getting into the health care business and leverages taxpayers' money to muscle everybody else out of the way. Under this approach, the vast majority of Americans who like the health care

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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